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Z 090814Z DEC 73 ZYH ZFF1/4  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 008

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

T O P S E C R E T/SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD

WH37490

TOHAK 008

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE  
CONTAINS CODEWORD  
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

DECEMBER 9, 1973

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

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REVIEW OF CUBAN ARMED FORCES ALERT: A DIA ANALYSIS OF CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE OCTOBER 25 - NOVEMBER 1 ARMED FORCES ALERT INDICATES AN IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO DEFEND THE ISLAND, ESPECIALLY WITH SUFFICIENT EARLY WARNING. SPECIFICALLY, THE ALERT DISCLOSED A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR JOINT-SERVICE DEFENSE, A FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED COMMAND-AND-CONTROL SYSTEM CAPABLE OF ACTIVATING AND MONITORING ALL OR PART OF THE DEFENSE PLAN, AND AN INCREASED CUBAN CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT ROLES ASSIGNED BY THE PLAN. FURTHERMORE, THE PRESENCE OF LARGE STOCKS OF MILITARY SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR EMERGENCY USE WAS CONFIRMED, AND AN ABILITY TO GAIN TIMELY AND ACCURATE INTELLIGENCE

THESE OBSERVATIONS INDICATE THAT THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN UNDERESTIMATED.

CHINESE WITHDRAW AAA FROM NORTHERN LAOS: THE CHINESE ARE WITHDRAWING A LARGE NUMBER OF THEIR ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY WEAPONS FROM NORTHERN LAOS. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OVER THE PAST MONTH SHOWS THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THE SOME 205 AAA WEAPONS OBSERVED IN NORTHERN LAOS IN OCTOBER HAVE BEEN REMOVED. PHOTOGRAPHY

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

State, DIA, NSA  
review(s) completed

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OF LATE NOVEMBER SHOWED 109 WEAPONS REMOVED; THE FIGURE MAY BE MUCH HIGHER, SINCE 79 POSITIONS WERE NOT PHOTOGRAPHED. WHILE SOME OF THESE WEAPONS MAY HAVE BEEN REDEPLOYED WITHIN LAOS, COVERAGE OF THE AREA WHERE A NEW ROAD IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION EAST OF MUONG SAI PROVIDES NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH A REDEPLOYMENT THERE. WITH THE CEASE-FIRE IN LAOS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, THE CHINESE PROBABLY SEE LITTLE NEED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AGAINST AIR ATTACK FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING TROOPS. PEKING ALSO MAY INTEND THE WITHDRAWAL AS A FURTHER SIGNAL OF SUPPORT FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS.

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ITALIANS REVIEW RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND NATO; ALTHOUGH THE ITALIANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN AMONG THE MOST RELIABLE DEFENDERS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, [REDACTED]

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ROME'S OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT THIS RE-EVALUATION IS CONTINGENT ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT EVENTS -- THE OIL SQUEEZE IN PARTICULAR -- COULD MAKE ROME'S TRADITIONAL COMMITMENT TO A U.S.-EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP LESS TENABLE. ITALIAN OFFICIALS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN PREVIEWING FOREIGN MINISTER MORO'S PRESENTATION TO THE UPCOMING NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL SESSION FOR EMBASSY ROME, EMPHASIZED MORO'S VIEW THAT EUROPE'S POLICIES SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT TIES WITH THE U.S. MOREOVER, PRIME MINISTER RUMOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT, RUMOR WILL URGE PRIME MINISTER HEATH THIS WEEKEND THAT THE EC MAKE A STRONG BID FOR A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT EARLY NEXT YEAR. RUMOR WILL ARGUE THAT THE U.S. TIE MUST BE REINFORCED IN LIGHT OF THE OIL CRISIS AND STRAINS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. RUMOR'S AIDE, HOWEVER, STRESSED ONE POINT THAT MAY BE A CONDITION FOR ROME'S CONTINUED ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS LINE. IN HIS VIEW, THE EUROPEANS MUST FEEL AFTER THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT THAT THEY CAN RELY ON THE U.S. TO HELP THEM DEAL WITH THE OIL CRISIS. HE ADDED THAT EUROPEAN ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE ARABS WOULD BE RADICALLY ALTERED IF SECRETARY KISSINGER COULD PRIVATELY TELL THE LEADERS OF SEVERAL KEY COUNTRIES THAT THE U.S. IS READY TO HELP IN SOME WAY WITH OIL SUPPLIES. THE AIDE'S COMMENT REVEALS ITALY'S HOPE THAT THIS ISSUE CAN BE HANDLED SUCCESSFULLY WITHIN NATO BUT SUGGESTS THAT, IF NO SUCH ASSURANCE IS FORTHCOMING, ROME MAY FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ADHERE TO ITS TRADITIONAL PRO-PARTNERSHIP STANCE.

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